

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02 COME-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 IO-13 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 /097 W
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O 211556Z APR 78 RUKORE RUEHKO ZFF
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0844
AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 08555

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:EAIR, CASC, UR
SUBJECT:MISSING SOUTH KOREAN AIRLINER

REF: (A) MOSCOW 8511, (B) SEOUL 3341 (ALL NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MFA OFFICIAL KAPITSA CALLED IN DCM AT 1345 ZULU
TO HAND OVER NON-PAPER ON DOWNED KOREAN AIRLINER. NON-
PAPER STATES THAT PLANE LANDED ON LAKE IN VICINITY OF
KEM IN KARELIAN ASSR AFTER FLYING OVER SOVIET AIRSPACE
FOR TWO HOURS. PASSENGERS AND CREW MAY BE REPATRIATED
FROM MURMANSK BY AMERICAN CIVIL AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, NO
AMERICANS WERE ON BOARD. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUESTIONS,
KAPITSA SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO DEAD WHEN PLANE LANDED ON
ICE AND THIRTEEN PERSONS TEMPORARILY HOSPITALIZED. HE
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COULD NOT PROVIDE NAMES OR NATIONALITIES OF DEAD. ONLY TWO
OF THOSE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL ARE REGARDED AS INJURED, AND ALL
MAY BE REPATRIATED. SOVIETS REFUSED TO CONSIDER PERMITTING
KOREAN AIRPLANE TO FLY TO MURMANSK TO MAKE THIS PICK UP.
DCM'S REFERENCE TO POSSIBILITY OF USING AIRLINES OF OTHER
THIRD PARTIES MET WITH UNFORTHCOMING RESPONSE. LOCAL PAN
AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE IS ABSENT FROM MOSCOW. WE SUGGEST

THAT SOUTH KOREAN AIRLINE SEEK TO CHARTER AVAILABLE
AMERICAN AIRCRAFT TO FLY SURVIVORS FROM MURMANSK TO
HELSINKI. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY ROUGH TRANSLATION OF NON-PAPER FOLLOWS:
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-- DURING THE NIGHT OF APRIL 20-21 AN AIRCRAFT OF UNKNOWN
REGISTRY VIOLATED THE AIRSPACE OF THE USSR FROM THE
DIRECTION OF THE BARENTS SEA IN A REGION NORTHEAST OF
MURMANSK AND, CONTINUING ITS FLIGHT IN A SOUTHERLY
DIRECTION, PENETRATED DEEP INTO THE TERRITORY OF THE USSR.

-- PVO FIGHTERS WHICH INTERCEPTED THE INTRUDING
AIRCRAFT DURING NIGHTTIME GAVE REPEATED COMMANDS BY
AIRCRAFT MANEUVERS AND FLARES TO FOLLOW THEM FOR
LANDING AT NEARBY AIRPORTS, BUT THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT
ACCEPT THESE COMMANDS AND MADE A LANDING ON A LAKE IN THE
KEM' DISTRICT OF THE KARELIAN ASSR A FULL TWO HOURS AFTER
ITS INCURSION INTO THE AIRSPACE OF THE SOVIET UNION.

-- AFTER THE LANDING, IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE AIRCRAFT
WHICH COMMITTED THE VIOLATION WAS A BOEING 707 BELONGING
TO THE SOUTH KOREAN AIRLINE.

-- AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES OF THE VIOLATION OF THE..
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AIRSPACE OF THE SOVIET UNION IS BEING CONDUCTED BY SOVIET
COMPETENT ORGANS.

-- THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF THE AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN
TRANSPORTED TO A NEARBY SETTLEMENT, AND MEASURES ARE BEING
TAKEN FOR THEIR TRANSPORT (OTPRAVKA) FROM THE TERRITORY OF
THE USSR.

-- THE USSR MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION WILL TRANSPORT THE
PASSENGERS TO MURMANSK, WHERE THE AMERICAN SIDE CAN SEND A
CIVIL AIRCRAFT FOR THEM. TECHNICAL DETAILS MUST BE
ARRANGED WITH THE CENTRAL DISPATCHER SERVICE OF THE
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (TEL. 155-54-12).

2. DCM ASKED WHETHER ALL THE PASSENGERS AND CREW WERE
SAFE. KAPITSA REPLIED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE ROUGH
LANDING, AT WHICH TIME THE LANDING GEAR COLLAPSED AND THE
AIRCRAFT SUSTAINED OTHER DAMAGE, FOUR PASSENGERS WERE
INJURED, TWO OF WHOM DIED. (SUBSEQUENTLY HE SAID THAT
13 HAD IN FACT BEEN TREATED FOR INJURIES, BUT THAT INJURIES
WERE NEGLIGIBLE WITH 11.) NEITHER THE NAMES NOR
NATIONALITY OF THE DEAD AND INJURED ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS
TIME, HE SAID, BUT SO FAR AS HE WAS AWARE NO AMERICAN

CITIZENS WERE ABOARD.

3. DCM NOTED THE OFFER TO ALLOW AN AMERICAN CIVIL AIRCRAFT TO PICK UP THE PASSENGERS IN MURMANSK, AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR A SOUTH KOREAN AIRCRAFT TO DO SO. KAPITSA'S ANSWER WAS A FLAT "NO," AND HE COMMENTED SUBSEQUENTLY, "WE DO NOT WISH TO DEAL WITH THE SOUTH KOREANS IN ANY FASHION IN THIS MATTER." DCM ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER AN AIRCRAFT OF JAPANESE OR OTHER NON-U.S. REGISTRY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, AND KAPITSA SAID THAT THE OFFER IS FOR AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT, AND THAT THIS OFFER IS BEING MADE IN LIGHT OF THE INTEREST WE HAD SHOWN IN THE MATTER. REPLYING TO A SUBSEQUENT QUESTION, HE SAID THAT MILITARY AIRCRAFT COULD NOT BE USED.
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4. DCM REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS THAT SOVIET FIGHTERS HAD FIRED UPON THE AIRCRAFT AND ASKED WHETHER THIS HAD IN

FACT HAPPENED. KAPITSA AVOIDED A DIRECT REPLY, STATED THAT SOVIET FIGHTERS INTERCEPTED THE AIRCRAFT WITHIN SOVIET AIRSPACE, GAVE REPEATED SIGNALS TO THE CREW WHICH WERE IGNORED, AND THAT THE CAUSES OF THE INTRUSION WERE BEING INVESTIGATED.

5. REGARDING THE PERSONS WHO COULD BE PICKED UP IN MURMANSK, KAPITSA SAID THAT CREW AS WELL AS PASSENGERS ARE INCLUDED IN OFFER, AND THAT THE TWO INJURED PASSENGERS ARE IN A CONDITION TO TRAVEL AND COULD BE MOVED.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH KAPITSA DID NOT TOTALLY EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF USING AIRCRAFT OF NON-U.S. REGISTRY (OTHER THAN SOUTH KOREAN), IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE MOST RAPID WAY TO EFFECT EVACUATION OF PASSENGERS FROM MURMANSK WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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BY USE OF U.S. CIVIL AIRCRAFT (PERHAPS ON CHARTER TO KAL) TO FLY PASSENGERS AND CREW FROM MURMANSK TO HELSINKI. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S REACTION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ARRANGEMENTS DESIRED.

7. WE ARE RECEIVING NUMEROUS PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT STATUS OF CASE. UNLESS DEPARTMENT ADVISES TO CONTRARY, WE WILL BEGIN INFORMING THEM OF FOREGOING INFORMATION AS OF 1700Z. ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO OUR BRIEFING JAPANESE EMBASSY. TOON

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Message Attributes

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